

CD NO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

ACHIEVEMENTS IN WOOD-PROCESSING INDUSTRY, FORESTATION

The Two-Year Plan for 1947 - 1948 was exceeded. In these 2 years a number of new wood-processing plants were placed in operation. Sixteen furniture factories were newly established, and five veneer factories expanded and re-organized. The plan for the wood industry for 1947 - 1948 was fulfilled 165

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percent. The current Five-Year Plan (1949 - 1953) provides for further expansion of the wood industry. By the end of 1953, the production of the wood-processing, cellulose, and paper industries is to be 3.5 times greater than in 1939.

The development of the wood chemicals industry is of particular interest for Bulgaria, since a large proportion of the Bulgarian forests consists of underbrush, which is particularly suitable for chemical processing.

In addition to charcoal, the wood chemicals industry of the country produces turpentine, rosin, acetic acid, acetone, etc. The Five-Year Plan provides for an appreciable expansion in the production of wood chemicals and for the construction of new plants.

In capitalist Bulgaria, foreign trade in wood, cellulose, and paper products was very little developed. Products of this category were only 1.5 percent of total imports and one percent of total exports. Imports were limited to logs from coniferous trees; exports were confined to charcoal. Only the import of paper pulp reached 15,000 tons (an appreciable figure for Bulgaria) shortly before World War II. During the war, foreign trade in wood, cellulose, and paper products dropped sharply. After the war economic recovery led to a reactivation of Bulgarian foreign trade. Logs are no longer imported, and in the export field important quotas are filled not only by the traditional charcoal but also by finished products such as veneer, parquet, cut and steamed beechwood, barrels, and the like.

MORE LAND FORESTED -- Sofia, Otechestven Front, 27 Apr 52

According to Georgi Popov, chairman of the Forest (Economy) Administration of the Council of Ministers, 125,386 decarees of land were forested in the period 1945 - 1949 and 41,265 decarees were reforested yearly during this period. During 1950, a total of 401,750 decarees were forested and reforested; during 1951, a total of 513,586 decarees; and during the spring of 1952, a total of 466,359 decarees.

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